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Y is a single bond, O, S or NR⁴;

each of p and q is zero or an integer from 1 to 5;

each of r and s is zero or an integer from 1 to 5;

each R¹ and R² is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C₁-C₄)alkyl which may be hydroxy- or alkoxy- or alkylthio-substituted, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, amino and halogen;

each of G¹-Gⁿ⁻¹ is -NR³CO-, -NR³CS-, -NR³SO- or -NR³SO₂-, in either orientation, where R³ is as defined above;

Q is -CO₂H, -CONR'R", -SO₃H or -SO₂NR'R" or an activated derivative of -CO₂H or -SO₃H; and

I is -NHR'''R'''' or -NR'''C(O)R''''', where R', R'', R''' and R'''' are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, amino protecting groups, reporter ligands, intercalators, chelators, peptides, proteins, carbohydrates, lipids, steroids, oligonucleotides and soluble and non-soluble polymers.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 11-21 are pending in this application. Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraph, as allegedly lacking enablement and definiteness. Although Applicants believe that claims 1-9 are both enabled and definite, in order to further prosecution, these claims have been canceled.

The Office Action mailed January 3, 2000, indicated that claims 11-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of base claim 1. Accordingly, claim 11 was amended on May 2, 2000, to place it in independent format through the use of bracketing and underlining. Applicants were informed in the Communication mailed August 15, 2000, however, that the amendments were not entered as the manner in which claim

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11 was amended was confusing because the claim as originally written contained bracketing.


Accordingly, claim 11 has been canceled in favor of new claim 22.

The Office Action alleges that the application fails to comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.821-1.825 as no submission of a computer readable form of the nucleic acid sequences has been submitted. Pursuant to Examiner's request, a computer readable form of these sequences was included with Applicants' May 2nd communication.

Applicants believe the foregoing constitutes a complete response to the Office Action mailed January 3, 2000 and the Communication mailed August 15, 2000, and respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for ready allowance. An early Office Action to that effect is, therefore, earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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